

From: Alex Silverman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/21/02 11:30pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

As an individual, I have benefited gloriously from the ingenuity, production, and thought that Microsoft has utilized over the years. It utterly baffles me why anyone would want to punish such life-promoting virtues.

I ask you: What exactly has Microsoft done wrong?

- Bill Gates earned a living by producing products that he chose to trade with others. (Inalienable right to life) Is this wrong?

- No one was forced to deal with Microsoft. Individual people willingly bought Microsoft products, trading goods for goods voluntarily - myself included. (Inalienable right to liberty) Is this wrong?

- Their products were and are so effective, that everyone chose Microsoft over other companies. (Inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness) Is this wrong?

Is this what we are to punish Microsoft for, for its earned success and dissemination of the products of efficacy? Are we to punish Microsoft because it is "too good", i.e., because it promotes life, liberty and happiness "too much"?

It is by this standard (i.e., our constitution) that I pronounce Microsoft as profoundly moral, and deserving of praise - not punishment, fines, and expropriation.

Bill Gates and Microsoft have a right to the goods that they produce by their own effort, i.e., they have a right their own property. Expropriating them - and for their success no less - is too scary for words.

I ask you, in the name of individual rights, and everything that this country stands for: do not punish the successful because they are successful. Let Microsoft - as well as every other business and

individual in our great country - be free to pursue
their life, liberty, and happiness.

Patriotically,
Alex Silverman
Wakefield, Massachusetts

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